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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 11 MAY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you as follows:

1. On 6 April 1999, a Kuwaiti patrol intercepted Iraqi craft No. 172 inside Iraqi territorial waters and proceeded to search it and to confiscate the fishing permits of the 12 fishermen on board.

2. On the same day, a Kuwaiti patrol intercepted the Iraqi craft Al-Ayyubi (No. 24/Basrah) inside Iraqi territorial waters and proceeded to search it and to confiscate the fishing permits of the 12 fishermen on board.

3. On the same day, the Iraqi craft Al-Taysir (No. 37/Basrah) was searched by a Kuwaiti patrol inside Iraqi territorial waters and the fishing permits of the seven fishermen on board were confiscated.

4. On the same day, a Kuwaiti patrol searched the Iraqi craft Nisrin (No. 135/Basrah) inside Iraqi territorial waters and the fishing permits of the seven fishermen on board were confiscated.

5. On 7 April 1999, the Iraqi craft Qadam al-Khayr (No. 7/Basrah) was searched by a Kuwaiti patrol inside Iraqi territorial waters and the fishing permits of the 11 fishermen on board were confiscated.

I request you to intervene with the Government of Kuwait with a view to inducing it to halt the violations and acts of piracy carried out by Kuwaiti patrols in Iraqi territorial waters, which have recently become more frequent. Such actions are in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law, and they pose a threat to the security and sovereignty of a member State of the United Nations.

I affirm Iraq's legally established right, in accordance with the principle of State responsibility, to seek lawful compensation for the damage done to its citizens and their property by these hostile acts.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative